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for university graduates

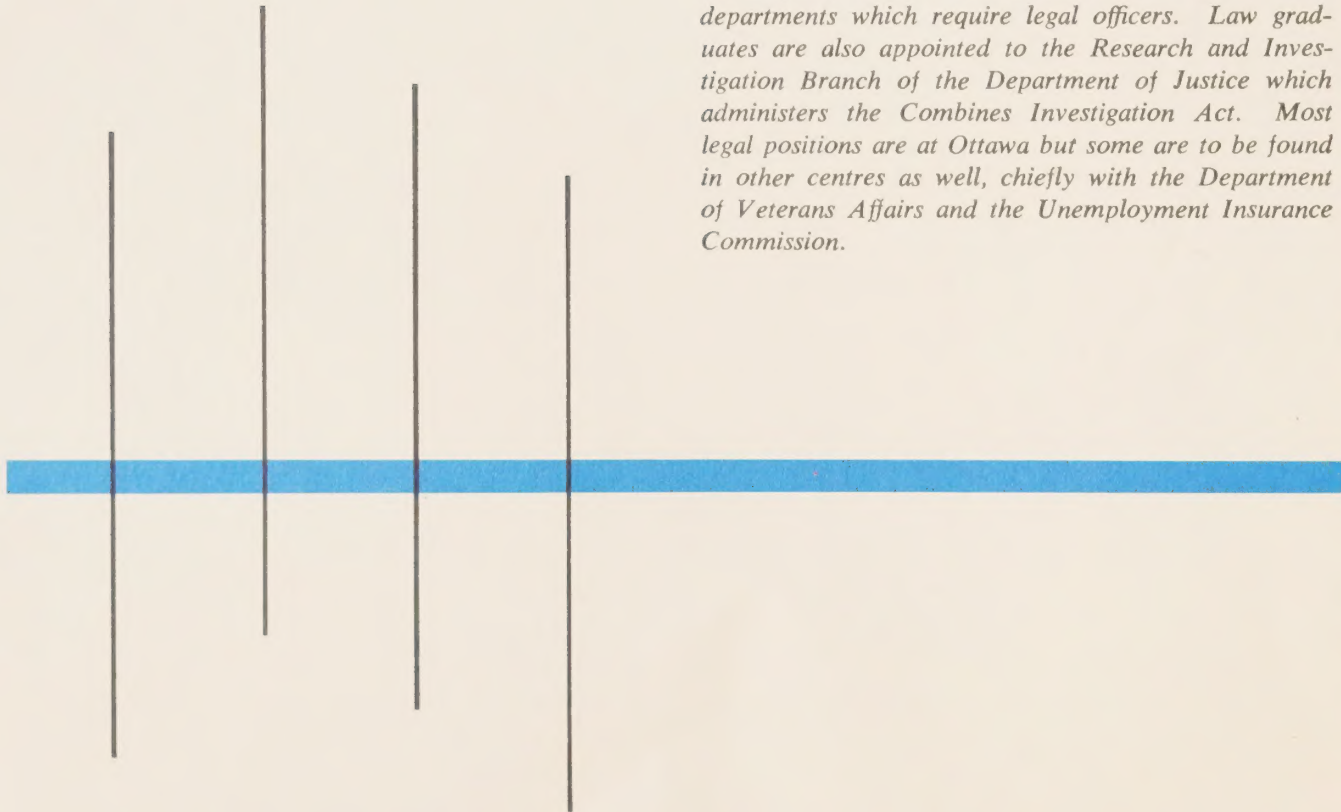
with the government of canada

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Introduction

Every year, a number of young law graduates are selected for employment in the Department of Justice, the Department of National Revenue, and for other departments which require legal officers. Law graduates are also appointed to the Research and Investigation Branch of the Department of Justice which administers the Combines Investigation Act. Most legal positions are at Ottawa but some are to be found in other centres as well, chiefly with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Unemployment Insurance Commission.



careers for graduates in law

Advisory Counsel

These officers are trained in the work of the Legal Branch of the Department of Justice which consists, in part, of participation in litigation to which the Crown, in right of Canada, is a party. Advisory Counsel may be called upon to conduct litigation for any government department or agency, to assist in such litigation, or, in cases where legal work is being performed by an agent of the Minister of Justice, to supervise and control such work.

The Department of Justice is the advisory body on legal questions affecting federal government departments, and Advisory Counsel must, from time to time, prepare legal opinions on such questions. They must pass judgment on the legal sufficiency of documents and prepare such documents when occasion requires. All government legislation including government regulations is prepared in the Department of Justice, and a number of Advisory Counsel are constantly engaged in work of this nature.

The Legal Branch is, in some respects, not unlike a large law firm, and young advisory counsel have the benefit of the guidance and instruction of the more experienced senior officers.

Tax Counsel

The Tax Counsel works in the Taxation Division of the Department of National Revenue. These lawyers deal with a variety of legal work arising out of the activities of this department, though the bulk of the work involves the preparation and presentation of cases before the Tax Appeal Board which holds hearings at various centres in Canada.

The Legal Branch of the Taxation Division is the third largest in the Civil Service, and at present all positions are based in Ottawa.

The work of this branch seems to be most attractive to law graduates who are anxious to do counsel work, and who wish to become specialists in tax law. It has been found that appointees who have had some training in accounting are able to make good use of this training in their work in the Legal Branch.

Solicitors

Solicitors are employed in the Departments of Citizenship and Immigration, Veterans Affairs, Labour, National Health and Welfare, in the Unemployment Insurance Commission and many other departments and agencies. The entrance grade for the class is Solicitor 1, which has the same starting salary as the other classes mentioned above.

Generally speaking, the work of a Solicitor has to do mostly with the problems peculiar to the department in which he is employed. Although it is obviously impossible for a Solicitor to divorce himself entirely from other fields of law, he is likely to become something of a specialist in those fields relating to the functions of his department. Thus we find Aviation Law specialists in the Air Transport Board, and International Law specialists in External Affairs.

Legal problems are constantly arising in government departments and while advice given by Solicitors is subject to the opinions of the Department of Justice, it is quite common for Solicitors to advise departmental officials on legal points peculiar to the department concerned. Those in the junior grades are required to prepare reports on points of law for the use of departmental officers, to assist in the drafting of legal documents and in the general work of the department. Solicitors also appear as counsel or advocate before Boards and Commissions.

Combines Investigation Officers

Law graduates are also employed in some positions in the Research and Investigation Branch of the Department of Justice as Combines Investigation Officers. The starting salary is the same as for Solicitor Advisory Counsel and Tax Counsel.

Combines Investigation Officers investigate and report on agreements and trade practices which may unduly restrict competitive production, pricing or distribution of goods. They must also assemble and analyze accounting, statistical and legal information on trade and related matters. The work necessitates a considerable amount of travel and involves interviews with business executives, the investigation of business establishments and the preparation and presentation of evidence before the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

In addition to the class, Combines Investigation Officer, there are many other civil service positions in which legal training is not a requirement but may be an advantage. The classes Finance Officer and Foreign Service Officer are examples.

Qualifications

In those positions where legal training is a prerequisite candidates do not necessarily have to be members of the Bar at the time they apply but must be admitted before appointment. Experience is not required. Graduates in economics and commerce are also employed as Combines Investigation Officers.

Selection

Selections are usually made on the basis of an oral examination only.

Benefits

In addition to a rewarding career and opportunities for advancement, the public service offers a five-day week, three weeks holidays, sick leave which may accumulate from year to year, an excellent pension plan, a form of low-cost term insurance, a new surgical-medical plan and various other features. The superannuation scheme is of special note; after 35 years of service it provides a yearly pension equal to 70 per cent of average salary over the best 6 years of employment.

Application

The requirements in each class will be made known from time to time in poster announcements. We invite you to watch for them. Vacancies occur each year. The competitions will also be announced in the daily press.

Other Information

This booklet is one of a series prepared for university students. The others are:

- Physical Sciences
- Engineering
- Biological Sciences
- Junior Executive Officers and Foreign Service Officers
- Medical Sciences, Dietetics and Social Work
- Library Science
- Business Administration, Commerce, Economics and Finance

Copies may be obtained from your University Placement Office or from any office of the Civil Service Commission.